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HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 26th Marines
FPO San Francisco 96602

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 March to 31 March 1967 (U)

Ref: (a) FMF PACO 5750.8
(b) Div O 5750.1A

Encl: (1) 3d Battalion, 26th Marines Command Chronology for period
1 March to 31 March 1967.

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), Enclosure (1) is submitted.

K. L. Hoch
K. L. HOCH

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HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 26th Marines
FPO San Francisco 96602

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 March to 31 March 1967

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Enclosure (1)

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PART I.

ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. DESIGNATIONSCOMMANDER

3d Battalion, 26th Marines

LtCol K. L. HOCH (1-31Mar67)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S Company

Capt R. J. SASEK (1-23Mar67)

Company I

2dLt P. A. PELLETIER (24-31Mar67)

Company K

Capt W. F. FARRELL III (1-12Mar67)

Company L

Capt R. M. MALLARD (13-31Mar67)

Company M

Capt F. D. BYNUM (1-16Mar67)

Company F/2/9

Capt A. L. SISCO (17-31Mar67)

H&S Company 2/9

Capt R. F. ROLLER Jr. (1-22Mar67)

Company H/2/9

Capt R. J. SASEK (23-31Mar67)

Combined Action Company A

Capt A. D. DEBONA (1-31Mar67)

Combined Action Company H

Capt N. H. VICENT (7-9Mar67)

1stLt J. G. MURPHY (8-9Mar67)

Capt R. K. JOHNSON (9Mar67)

Capt J. H. HALL (9-31Mar67)

Capt R. K. ROTH (9-31Mar67)

SUPPORTING UNITS

(1) Battery C/1/13

Capt T. J. BRACKMAN (1-9Mar67)

Battery D, 1st Bn, 44th Arty

1stLt G. H. KARSON, USA (1-9Mar67)

Battery G, 2d Bn, 65th Arty

Capt F. H. WARD, USA (10-31Mar67)

1stLt D. M. BOWIE, USA (1-9Mar67)

2. For matters pertaining to the defense of the Phu Bai vital area perimeter, and Gia Le Encampment Area, the following units fall under the Operational Control of the Battalion.

MAG-16 B

Sector Commanders as

Hq Bn

Designated (9-31Mar67)

3d MP Bn

MOR-62

4th Bn, 12th Mar

H&S/1/9

FLSG-A

D/1/44

H&S/2/9

3d Engr Bn

(26-31Mar67)

3. LOCATION: Phong Dien District, Thua Thien Province, RVN (1-9Mar67)
 Nam Hoa, Huong Thuy, Phu Loc Districts, Thua Thien Province, RVN (10-31Mar67)

4. STAFF OFFICERS:

Executive Officer

Maj D. J. FULHAM (1-16Mar67)

Maj W. J. WOODRING JR. (17-31Mar67)

(1) SUBORDINATE

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S-1
Personnel Officer

S-2 (Personnel Officer)

S-3

S-3A

S-4

Comm Officer

Supply Officer

Motor Transport Officer

Medical Officer

2dLt R. D. SPENCER (1-31Mar67)

2dLt E. L. KNOX (1-31Mar67)

2dLt T. A. BAILEY (1-31Mar67)

Maj W. J. WOODRING JR. (1-16Mar67)

Capt F. D. BYNUM (17-31Mar67)

Capt M. L. VOS (1-31Mar67)

Capt W. F. FARRELL III (14-31Mar67)

1stLt M. A. KING (1-31Mar67)

Capt J. L. STEELE (1-31Mar67)

Capt G. A. RADNIECKI (1-31Mar67)

Capt P. E. SULLIVAN (1-31Mar67)

Lt J. F. IPPOLITTI, USN (1-31Mar67)

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DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

1 MARCH 1967

2 MARCH 1967

At 1145H, M-3 patrol vic (YD 526294) fired SA on 2 armed VC in black pajamas who appeared 20 meters to their south, and called mortars on likely enemy avenue of escape to the S. M-3 killed 2 VC and captured 4 weapons, (1 M-1, 3 bolt action rifles), and 1 M-26 grenade, unable to find owners of the other two weapons. 2 VC killed, 4 wounded.

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At 1300H, K-1 vic (YD 590267) called artillery on 2 VC wearing camouflage material on clothing, who were moving SW vic (YD 580256). Good coverage of area, 1 VC KIA.

At 1320H, K-2 vic (YD 568268) received 8 rounds SAF from their S. Unable to determine exact enemy location. No further contact.

At 1450H, AO called artillery mission and 2 fixed wing airstrikes on 13 armed VC vic (YD 573257). 1 VC was killed by artillery, and 12 by air. An undetermined number of weapons and packs in 2 boats were also destroyed. 13 VC KIA.

At 1520H, L-3 vic (YD 443211) fired on 2 VC in khaki uniforms who were moving N on trail vic (YD 443209). VC fled S, leaving 2 bags of rice and assorted items of clothing. Also found 3 fresh graves containing 3 20-25 year old bodies that had been killed by shrapnel.

At 1815H, a sniper team attached to Co L vic (YD 461303) fired on 6 armed VC with helmets and khaki uniforms who were moving S vic (YD 465303). 2 VC KIA.

At 1730H, AO called artillery on 8-10 VC in fighting holes vic (YD 604262). Good coverage of area, 4 VC KIA.

At 2028H, K-3 vic (YD 603267) received grenades and SAF from 2-3 VC at close range while moving E to ambush position. K-3 had 1 man hit by shrapnel. K-3 returned fire and VC fled E. LZ received SAF while wounded man was medevaced. Subsequent search of area revealed 1 dead VC, a trail of blood leading into village, and 2 50 lb bags of rice, one with heavy bloodstains. Results: USMC 1 WIA; Enemy 1 KIA.

At 2251H, K-3 vic (YD 603267) received 6 rounds SAF from vic (YD 603265). Mortars fired on target, no further movement observed.

During the 24-hour period, 1 fighting hole camouflaged as a grave, 2 blocks of TNT, and 155mm round rigged with a trip wire across a 1 ft deep pit vic (YD 573267) were destroyed.

3 March 1967

Co K moved to vic (YD 602273) to establish blocking position for Popular Force search and clear operation. Other companies continued to operate in their respective areas.

At 0910H, Co K called artillery on 3 VC moving W vic (YD 550253). VC wore green uniforms and packs, and 1 carried a weapon. Good coverage, 1 VC KIA.

At 0945H, Co K CP vic (YD 549281) fired M-55 on 1 VC digging vic (YD 548265). VC fled in undetermined direction after initial rounds.

At 1020H, Co K CP called artillery on 3 armed VC moving W in treeline vic (YD 538262). VC wore green uniforms, helmets, and packs. Good coverage of area, unable to observe results.

At 1230H, Co K CP vic (YD 574253) called artillery on 1 VC vic (YD 574253). Excellent coverage of area. 1 VC KIA.

At 1415H, AO called airstrike on 8-10 VC running into treeline vic (YD 587258). 2 VC KIA, 4 VC KIA.

At 1450H, K-2 vic (YD 549281) called artillery on VC wearing black uniforms in treeline vic (YD 581253). Good coverage of area, 4 VC KIA.

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At 1605H, K-2A CP vic (YD 52283) called artillery on 9 armed VC moving SE in treeline vic (YD 582265). Wore black uniforms, packs, and rifles, one of which appeared to be a BAR. Excellent coverage of area, but no evidence of VC casualties.

At 1640H, an AO crash-landed vic (YD 544275) due to loss of power. Co K CP vic (YD 549281) observed 1 round of SAF fired at the downed aircraft from S, and dispatched squad to the AO's location. The squad arrived at 1645H; and at 1745H, M-2 departed the Battalion perimeter on Otters to establish security about the downed aircraft for the night. The crew was medevaced at 1700H, the aircraft itself was dismantled and helilifted to PHU BAI at 1745H on the following day.

At 1920H, K-2 vic (YD 602275) received 4 rds carbine fire from 1 VC vic (YD 602271). K-2 returned SAF and sniper ceased firing.

4 MARCH 1967

Co L moved to vic (YD 459319) to begin operations in Hill 42 area. Co K returned to Hill 51 vic (YD 548282) after completing blocking mission. Co I and Co M continued to operate in the Battalion CP area and provide perimeter security.

At 0025H, Co I vic (YD 532324) called 81mm mortars on lights sighted vic (YD 538328) and (YD 532328). Lights extinguished.

At 0910H, Popular Forces unit moving through village vic (YD 6027) in search and clear operation with Co K received SAF and 60mm mortar fire from vic (YD 602262), (YD 603261), and (YD 604262). Co K fired 60mm mortars and called artillery mission. Excellent coverage of area, but negative surveillance due to heavy foliage. Enemy fire ceased.

At 1106H, L-3A ambush vic (YD 455312) fired on 4 VC walking W on trail. VC wore black pajamas, sandals, and soft jungle hats. L-3A fired on VC at range of approx 10 meters, killing 1 VC and capturing 1 ChiCom submachinegun and 1 ChiCom grenade. Remaining VC fled W. While checking area, L-3A found heavy bloodstains further down trail, and received SAF resulting in 1 WIA. L-3A returned fire, and suffered a second WIA from fragments of one of their own grenades. Results: USMC 2 WIA; Enemy: 1 KIA, 1 KIAP, 1 weapon captured.

At 1200H, Co K vic (YD 602272) completed its mission as a blocking force for the search and clear operation in village vic (YD 6027). Only half of the villagers were relocated by the village chief. Co K crossed river in order to sweep area immediately S of river vic (YD 601264).

At 1215H, K-1A vic (YD 500295) detonated a ChiCom grenade rigged with tripwire to a tree, resulting in 3 USMC WIA.

At 1310H, Co K vic (YD 603267) fired on a man who broke and ran about 100 meters to their W, wounding him in left shoulder. Man apprehended and medevaced to A-Med. 1 Detainee.

At 1230H, 106 plt patrol apprehended 1 female detainee vic (YD 545310). Three men who were with her fled S.

At 1545H, K-1A vic (YD 550300), while waiting for medevac of casualties received at 1215H, received SAF from 150 meters to their N vic (YD 550297) and 4-5 rds 60mm mortars from vic (YD 550300). K-1A returned SAF and called artillery with good effect on target. Enemy SAF and mortar fire ceased. Wounded men medevaced at 1615H.

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5 MARCH 1967

Co L moved to vic (YD 454332) to conduct operations in the Hill 101 area. Co M moved to vic (YD 517267) to conduct operations in the Don O O/ Ap Hien An area. Other companies continued to operate in their respective areas.

At 2044H, Co M vic (YD 513280) while moving to new position made contact with approx 6 VC 50 meters to their S. Co M fired on VC, who fled without returning fire. No evidence of enemy casualties or direction of withdrawal was discovered.

6 MARCH 1967

Co L returned to Battalion perimeter to provide Reaction Force. Other companies continued to operate in their respective areas. 3/26 Advance Party moved to PHU BAI Vital Defense Area.

At 0330H, Co M vic (YD 533259) had 1 Marine fall into river and fracture his leg while moving to ambush position.

At 0815H, K-2 vic (YD 565269) fired on 2 VC vic (YD 573264). Subsequent search of area revealed fresh bloodstains. During search K-2 received sniper fire from an undetermined direction.

At 0925H, I-2B vic (YD 547307) detonated an M-26 grenade rigged with trip wire, resulting in 1 USMC WIA.

At 1015H, advance party from 2/9 arrived in CHINOOK AO.

At 1225H, M-3 ambush vic (YD 538253) fired on 3 VC wearing shorts and penchos on trail vic (YD 537252). 2 VC KIAC.

During the 24-hour period 1 punji pit vic (YD 547307), 1 boat vic (YD 548302), and a 12 ft long trenchline containing 3 fighting holes vic (YD 548302) were destroyed.

7 MARCH 1967

Co L relieved Co I on Battalion perimeter. Co I moved by Rough Rider to PHU BAI and chopped Operational Control to 2/9 upon arrival. F/2/9 chopped Operational Control to 3/26 and moved to Hill 51 vic (YD 548282) to relieve Co K. Co K moved to Battalion perimeter and assumed Reaction Force. Co M moved to vic (YD 503325) in preparation for returning to Battalion perimeter.

At 1140H, Co M vic (YD 538253) ambushed 4 VC walking S on trail in black clothing, jungle hats, and packs. Enemy returned 20 rounds SAF. Results: USMC 1 WIA; Enemy: 2 KIAC, 1 KIAP.

8 MARCH 1967

Third Battalion, 26th Marines (Fwd) Command Group moved by Rough Rider to PHU BAI. Co I (OPCON to 2/9 in PHU BAI) provided two squads from I-1 to CAC-A1 and A2 to conduct patrols and ambushes. I-2 established combat outposts on Hill 180 (YD 855133) and Hill 230 (YD 848087). I-3 provided security for survey team at Colco Beach vic (YD 871267). Co K moved by Rough Rider to PHU BAI and chopped Operational Control to 2/9 upon arrival. Co L continued as perimeter security. Co M returned to the Battalion perimeter and assumed Reaction Force. H&S/2/9 arrived in CHINOOK AO and chopped Operational Control to 3/26.

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At 2145H, listening post HQ Co, 4th Marines vic (YD 542314) observed lights and heard metallic noises vic (YD 454313). Called 81mm mortars with excellent coverage of area, negative surveillance.

9 MARCH 1967

Co K (OPCON to 2/9 in PHU BAI) established patrol bases in GIA LE and TRUOI areas with K-1 and K-3, respectively. K-2 assumed Sparrow Hawk. Co M moved by Rough Rider to PHU BAI and chopped Operational Control to 2/9 upon arrival. H/2/9 arrived in CHINOOK AO and chopped Operational Control to 3/26. H&S Co (OPCON to 2/9 in PHU BAI) provided personnel to man 81mm mortars at Coloc Beach, Hill 230, and Hill 180, manned a portion of Sector F on the Vital Area Perimeter, and provided one squad from 106 plt to conduct patrols in Gravel Pit area vic (YD 840150). D/1/44 assumed mission of direct support of 3/26. Co I and Co L continued with assigned missions.

At 1000H, I-3 patrol vic (YD 870268) received approximately 100 rounds SAF from estimated 10 VC with 6 automatic weapons vic (YD 868265). I-3 was temporarily pinned down by enemy SAF, but returned 60mm mortar and SAF and VC broke contact. An artillery mission was denied because VC were in friendly area. Results: USMC 1 WIA; Enemy: 1 KIAP.

At 1345H, F/2/9, H/2/9, and H&S/2/9 chopped Operational Control to 2/9, and 2/9 assumed responsibility for the CHINOOK II AO.

At 1600H, Co I, Co K, and Co M chopped Operational Control to 3/26. An informal change of command took place in PHU BAI at which 3/26 chopped Operational Control to 3d MarDiv and assumed responsibility for the PHU BAI Vital Area TAOR IAW 3d MarDiv Frag O 9-67.

10 MARCH 1967

Co L moved by Rough Rider to PHU BAI. Co M assumed Rough Rider/Sparrow Hawk Reserve. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0435H, Sector B (HQ Bn) vic (YD 888154) sighted one VCS in treeline vic (YD 888157) with aid of hand illumination. HQ Bn fired 3 rds SAF. No further movement was detected in area.

At 1830H, CAC-A6 patrol vic (YD 829174) made contact with approx 100 VC in graveyard vic (YD 827164) and (YD 825170). CAC-A6 received SAF, M-79, and 2 60mm mortar rounds, and returned SAF. VC broke contact at 1910H, dividing their units and moving N and S. K-1 moved from vic (YD 804147) to vic (YD 825157) to block enemy withdrawal. No casualties.

At 2230H, CAC-A6 HQ vic (YD 820181) received approx 150 rounds SAF from vic (YD 820183). CAC-A6 returned fire. At 2235H, CAC-A6 was receiving fire from all sides, and the revolutionary development unit in the village was also taken under fire. CAC-A6 continued to return fire until the enemy broke contact at 2245H. No casualties.

11 MARCH 1967

M-3 relieved K-2 as Sparrow Hawk and K-2 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. M-1 conducted search and destroy operation in CAC-A1 and A2 areas with M-2 providing convoy security. Both units reverted to Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve on completion of mission. Co L assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. All other units continued with assigned missions.

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At 1550H, CAC-H2 patrol apprehended 1 Detainee vic (YD 999065).
 Detainees name was on blacklist.

12 MARCH 1967

All units continued with assigned missions.

At 2030H, CAC-H received information through PHU LOC District Chief from a local source that a VC Battalion was moving to THUY YEN Mountains and might attack CAC-H6. H6 alerted for possible attack and H&I's fired throughout area.

At 1750H, HMM-163 reported that an estimated VC company was in heavy contact with an ARVN unit vic (YD 851221). Made strafing run, destroyed 2 structures and damaged 3.

At 1900H, CIT unit moving E on Hwy #1 vic (ZD 020026) was ambushed by an estimated VC platoon vic (ZD 017024) resulting in 2 USMC WIA. Unit drove through ambush and artillery from CAC H was fired on enemy position.

At 2125H, Sector B (HQ Bn) vic (YD 884151) heard movement vic (YD 885161). Illumination was fired, and after initial round, SAF was heard vic (YD 879158). No further evidence of enemy movement was reported.

At 2335H, Sector H (D/1/44) vic (YD 877154) received 2 rounds SAF from vic (YD 875160). Illumination fired with negative surveillance.

13 MARCH 1967

M-1 assumed Sparrow Hawk until 1700H. M-2 provided one reinforced squad with FO for security of Army survey team. M-3(-) with FO team provided security for Navy Bench Mark Survey Team. At 1800H, Co M moved to GIA LE area to conduct night ambushes. Co L (-) (Rein) provided security for Rough Rider to DONG HA. L-1 continued on Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider reserve until 1700H, when it relieved M-1 as Sparrow Hawk. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0145H, Sector H (D/1/44) vic (YD 871154) received 4 rds SAF, one of which went through bunker aperture and struck a Marine in flak jacket without injury.

At 2045H, Popular Forces unit with CAC-A5 ambush vic (ZC 087998) spotted an unknown number of VC approaching from E. One man coughed, compromising ambush position, and Popular Forces opened fire. VC fled W. No casualties.

At 2115H, CAC-H2 sentry vic (YD 931081) spotted 2-4 VC along river. CAC-H2 fired 75 rds 7.62 and 5 rds 12 gauge at enemy. Subsequent search revealed one straw hat, but no evidence of enemy casualties.

At 2130H, CAC-A ambush vic (YD 909115) heard movement in treeline on their right flank. Point took area under fire, and received 20 rds of AW fire in return. Subsequent search of area revealed no evidence of casualties.

14 MARCH 1967

Co L (-) (Rein) provided security for Rough Rider's return from DONG HA and reverted to Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve upon arrival in

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perimeter. At 1300H, K-2 relieved K-1 of patrol base mission in GIA LE area and K-1 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. Co M reverted to Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve during day, and conducted ambushes in GIA LE area at night. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 1130H, a Vietnamese child led a CAC-H6 patrol to 5 U.S. 60mm mortar rds vic (YD 141001). Rds confiscated.

At 1800H, CAC H heard an explosion and SAF vic (ZD 009029), apparently a VC ambush. District Chief fired artillery into area and dispatched patrol to investigate. One wounded Vietnamese male was found, and medevaced to HUE.

At 1815H, K-3 vic (YD 942045) observed 5 armed VC moving SW vic (YD 932035). Dispatched squad to engage VC, and squad pursued enemy for 1000 meters, but were not able to get closer than 600 meters. Squad felt it was being drawn into an ambush and because of darkness, gave up the chase and returned to K-3 and moved on to night ambush position.

At 1840H, 12 VC armed with carbines and Thompsons and wearing khakis, camouflaged utilities and berets, ambushed a bus carrying 13 people on Hwy #1, killing 1 person and wounding 2. VC triggered ambush with a mine, and then took a satchel containing 20,500 plasters and an ID card before fleeing into mountains. The bus went to CAC-H3 after ambush.

At 2153H, M-2 vic (YD 831154) sighted 30 VC moving N on trail vic (YD 831154). Co M was still consolidating ambush positions as VC approached, and took VC under fire with SAF, M-79, and 60mm mortars. Initial contact lasted 5 minutes. VC were carrying BAR's, AK-47's, carbines, pistols, hand grenades, and TNT blocks and returned 300 rounds SAF and 15 grenades before fleeing SW. M-2 pursued VC to vic (YD 836153) and maintained intermittent contact until 2210H. During firefight, enemy were seen falling and dragging off dead and wounded until M-2 ran out of flares. By the time mortar illumination arrived, most of the bodies had been removed. Subsequent searches of area at 142215H and 150712H revealed 2 VC KIA, 1 AK-47 with magazines, 1 M-26 hand grenade, 2 ChiCom grenades, 1 BAR magazine, 1 wallet, 10 blocks of TNT with pull-type fuzes, assorted personal gear and numerous bloodstains throughout area. Results: USMC 1 KIA, 5 WIA; Enemy: 2 KIAP, 1 weapon captured.

At 2305H, M-2 ambush vic (YD 834158) received sniper fire from 2 VC vic (YD 820159). VC fled in unknown direction immediately after firing.

15 MARCH 1967

M-2 (Rein) provided security for Rough Rider to DANANG. Co M (-) assumed 15 minute alert as Rough Rider Reserve during day, and conducted ambushes in GIA LE area at night. All other units continued with their assigned missions.

At 0310H, CAC-H3 patrol vic (YD 969064) received 5 rds SAF from 1 VC who ran into their point and then fled N. Patrol swept area and extinguished a fire set by a WP grenade in a nearby house. No casualties, no further contact.

At 1437H, K-2 vic (YD 817151) observed movement and sighted a radio antenna in bunker on hill vic (YD 723133). K-2 continued observance of activity near bunker until 1605H, when a 155 mission was fired with unknown results.

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At 1850H, CAC-A6 patrol vic (YD 829179) received 7-8 rds SAF from 2 VC armed with carbines. Patrol returned 20 rds SAF and swept area, but did not regain contact.

At 2115H, Sector B (HQ Bn) observed movement of what appeared to be 3 persons vic (YD 888161). Fired SAF in area, but illumination revealed no enemy casualties.

At 2200H, K-2 VC (YD 817151) observed SAF being fired on position K-2 had vacated a few hours earlier under cover of darkness vic (YD 809147). Believed to have been recon by fire.

16 MARCH 1967

L-3 relieved L-1 as Sparrow Hawk and L-1 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. M-2 (Rein) provided security for Rough Rider's return from Danang. Co M (-) maintained 45 minute alert as Rough Rider Reserve during day and conducted ambushes in Gia Le area at night. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0845H an ARVN 3/4 ton truck was ambushed by 12 VC while travelling on road vic (ZD 052025). VC stopped truck; captured an ARVN lieutenant, and moved into hills. Remaining 5 VC opened fire with SAF as VC disappeared into hills. CAC-H was notified, and dispatched units from H-4, H-5, and PHU LOC District HQ to ambush site, where they received 25 rds SAF. Units returned 24 rds M-79 and 40 rds of 7.62. Artillery from PHU LOC District HQ fired into suspected ambush position. Search of area revealed body of ARVN lieutenant, who had been shot and killed, 2 VC KIA, 1 captured ARVN carbine, 4 ChiCom grenades and 1 claymore mine.

At 0930H, an ARVN vehicle moving W on Hwy #1 detonated an unknown type of mine vic AU 834023. Mine apparently planted previous night. Vehicle proceeded to CAC-H7, where one wounded ARVN was treated by corpsman. Vehicle then continued on its way.

At 0950H, CAC-H observed 3 rds 60mm mortar land vic (ZC 101996) and 1 rd land vic (ZC 099001). Believed to be registration fire from suspected position vic (ZC 106988). District HQ fired artillery and Army advisor called airstrike in area. Negative surveillance by AO. No further incoming was received.

At 1947H, K-3 ambush vic (YD 958046) fired on 2 VC moving SW on trail, one of whom carried a weapon. Search of area revealed bloodstains. K-3 suffered 1 USMC WIA, who was cut in right eye by a branch while pursuing VC.

At 2105H, CAC-A6 patrol observed 1 VCS talking to villagers in DONG TIN vic (YD 816177). Upon approach of patrol, VCS fled N. Patrol fired 15-20 rds 7.62 and 3 M-79 rds. Pursued VCS, searching area for 150 meters with negative results. One civilian was wounded in pursuit by fire.

At 2110H, Popular Forces on N side of river vic (YD 874179) were hit by an unknown number of VC, suffering 1 KIA and 1 WIA. At the same time CAC-A1 in blocking position vic (YD 874178) on south side of river received either an M-79 rd or rifle grenade from across river to N vic (YD 874178), resulting in 1 USMC WIA.

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17 March 1967

Co M (Rein) conducted night ambushes in TRUOI area and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve during day. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0047H, CAC A1 reported that ARVN compound vic (YD 874183) received AW fire from treeline vic (YD 873195). ARVN returned fire. Village chief reported that the VC would attempt to overrun compound. Illumination fired with poor effect due to fog.

At 0055H, CAC-H6 CP received heavy SAF and 32 rds 60mm mortar fire from vic (ZD 143008). Villagers reported 50 VC in area. ARVN fired artillery in area with good coverage, and CAC-H6 swept area but found no evidence of enemy casualties. Popular Forces suffered 1 WIA. Subsequent search of area by Popular Forces at 1300H, revealed 23 one/two man positions, 4 of which had received direct hits from artillery. Found blood in holes, imprints of 3 60mm mortars, 1 60mm round, and 1 60mm mortar cover.

At 0200H, M-3 ambush vic (YD 954055) fired on unknown number of VC on trail, receiving 1 ChiCom grenade in return. No casualties.

At 0320H, CAC-H2 reported that an explosion in a village hut apparently caused by a claymore mine, killed 1 civilian and wounded one. Wounded man medevaced to HUE.

At 2040H, approximately 5 VC fired on a Revolutionary Development Team vic (YD 817185) with SA and what seemed to be a K-51 machinegun. RD Team returned fire and were reinforced with Popular Forces and Marines from CAC-A6 and A-9, who swept area and received SAF. Illumination was fired and VC fled south. RD reported VC were from LOI NONG vic (YD 840197) and had been collecting taxes. Subsequent search of area revealed blood stains and drag marks. 1 VC KIAP.

18 March 1967

K-1 relieved K-3 of patrol base mission in CIA LE area and K-3 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. M-3 relieved I-1 of mission of providing two squads to CAC-A1 and A2 to conduct patrols, and M-1 relieved I-2 of combat outpost missions on Hill 230 and Hill 180. I-1 and I-2 returned to Vital Area Perimeter and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. One squad of I-3 returned to Vital Area Perimeter. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0003H, CAC-H3 ambush vic (YD 957055) received 10-15 rds SAF from vic (YD 975055). Returned 50 rds and requested illumination, which did not arrive until 0040H. At 0046H, received light SAF from south. Subsequent search of area revealed blood stains and drag marks. 1 VC KIAC; 2 VC KIAP.

At 1530H, CAC-A6 patrol vic (YD 833174) fired 20 rds SAF at two VC wearing green shorts, khaki shirts, and armed with K-50's vic (YD 833174). VC fled N. Search of area revealed 1 male and 1 female hiding in brush. Believed to have warned VC. Both apprehended for interrogation.

19 March 1967

I-1 relieved L-3 as Sparrow Hawk. One squad of I-3 returned from Colco Beach to Vital Area Perimeter and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. Co L (Rein) moved to HUU LOC to conduct operations in that area. All other units continued with assigned missions.

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At 1420H, Sparrow Hawk was alerted for helolift at 1500H to vic (YD 465405) to provide security for a downed aircraft until aircraft could be repaired and flown out. I-1 departed promptly and chopped Operational Control to 4th Marines upon arrival in area. When aircraft flew out, I-1 was helolifted back to HHU BAI, arriving in the Vital Area at 1750H. No enemy contact was made at any time.

20 March 1967

I-2 provided security for Rough Rider to Danang. All other units continued with their assigned missions.

At 2030H, CAC-H6 patrol received 2 M-79 rds from vic (YD 147008). Patrol returned fire, wounding 1 detainee who was captured on search of area. No weapons, ammo, or evidence of enemy activity was found during search of area.

At 2235H, CAC-H1 called medevac for 5 yr old girl and Popular Forces soldier, both with high fevers. As helicopter approached LZ, a booby trapped PF M-26 grenade exploded, wounding 1 Marine. Marine medevaced with the two Vietnamese at 2243H.

21 March 1967

I-3 relieved I-1 as Sparrow Hawk, and I-1 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. I-2 provided security for Rough Rider's return from Danang. M-2 provided security for survey teams. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0020H, CAC-A1 patrol vic (YD 895182) requested artillery mission on unknown number of VC firing SAF from vic (YD 877184). Request denied. Patrol apprehended 1 Detainee for signalling with light upon entry and departure of patrol.

At 0545H, K-1 ambush vic (YD 934033) fired on 1 armed VC in black pajamas walking S on trail vic (YD 934033). Captured 2 ChiCom grenades, 1 carbine. 1 VC KIA, 1 wpm captured.

At 1230H CAC-H patrol vic (ZC 151986) apprehended 1 Detainee with 6100 piasters. Detainee delivered to HHU LOC District Headquarters.

At 1300H, CAC-H2 patrol vic (YD 948080) fired on, wounded, and captured 1 Detainee who fled from patrol and did not stop when warned by PF's. Man was medevaced by truck.

At 1630H, CAC-H5 vic (ZD 087007) received 3 rds SAF from sniper E of compound. Unable to determine exact location of sniper. No fire returned.

At 2030H, CAC-H8 vic (YD 975056) was probed by 2 VC who ignited trip flare and threw 1 grenade. CAC fired 2 M-79 rounds. Results unknown.

22 March 1967

I-1 provided security for Rough Rider to Danang. I-2 relieved I-3 as Sparrow Hawk and I-3 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 1532H, 4/12 reported that one of its patrols had apprehended 2 Detainees who were attempting to sneak up on patrol. Detainees delivered to be RD's from CAC-A. Detainees and 1 carbine delivered to

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At 2145H, CAC-H3 vic (YD 979068) received 3 to 5 rounds SAF from unknown number of VC vic (YD 979068). CAC-H3 returned 75 rds 7.62. Fired 2 hand illumination flares and swept area, but found nothing.

At 2215H, L-3 vic (ZC 144975) spotted 3 armed VC moving S towards the position they were just moving into. L-3 established a hasty ambush and killed all 3 VC. Since one VC was carrying an empty 100 pound rice bag, VC were possibly going to village to collect rice. L-3 captured 1 submachinegun with 2 magazines, 1 AK-47 with 3 magazines, 4 ChiCom grenades, and 1 1½ lb block of TNT. 3 VC KIA, 2 wpns captured.

23 March 1967

I-1 remained in Danang as Rough Rider's return to HUU BAI was postponed. K-1 moved to vic (YD 955087) and K-3 moved to vic (YD 923144) to establish ambush/block positions in support of an ARVN operation. M-2 relieved M-3 of patrolling mission for CAC-A1 and A2, and M-3's mission of providing security for surveyors was aborted by a weather hold on helicopters. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0600H, the second truck of an ARVN convoy moving E on Hwy #1 detonated mine vic (ZD 022026). SAF exchanged for 10 minutes. ARVN's suffered: 1 KIA, 8WIA.

At 1045H, 3d Shore Party patrol vic (YD 895283) apprehended 1 male Detainee without ID or papers. Delivered to ARVN Coastal Group #12.

At 1300H, L-3 sighted 5 VC moving NW on trail vic (ZD 145971). L-3 maneuvered into position and took VC under fire, resulting in 2 VC KIA, 3 VC KIAP, and 2 wpns captured (submachineguns).

At 1345H, Sector D (4/12) received 1 round SAF from treeline to their SE. No fire returned.

At 1415H, 3d Engr TD-18 detonated an explosive device, possibly a box mine vic (YD 836147), resulting in undetermined amount of damage to vehicle, no casualties.

At 2130H, CAC-H8 ambush patrol vic (YD 995047) observed 10 VC moving E on road, and took VC under fire at a range of 10-20 meters, expending 500 rounds SAF and 6 grenades. VC returned 300 rounds SAF, 4 grenades, and 3 M-79's before breaking contact and fleeing W. Apparently VC were in two groups, with unknown number reinforcing first group. Search of area revealed numerous drag marks, bloodstains, matted hair, clothing, and parts of a .32 cal weapon that was destroyed by a grenade. Results: 4 VC KIAP, no friendly casualties.

At 2315H, CAC-H3 vic (YD 966063) observed 1-3 persons crawling across Hwy #1 vic (YD 968063) being fired upon by ARVN patrols from TRUOI RR Station. CAC-H3 unable to determine results.

At 2330H, CAC-A3 ambush fired on 2 VC who entered their killing zone approximately 50 meters away. Fired 60 rounds SAF. VC returned 30 rds and fled SW. Search of area revealed no evidence of VC casualties.

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24 March 1967

I-1 provided security for Rough Rider's return from Danang. I-2 and I-3 assumed patrol base missions in TRUOI area and GIA LE area, respectively. K-1 returned from ambush block/position and relieved I-2 as Sparrow Hawk. K-2 and K-3 returned from GIA LE area and ambush/block position and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. Co L returned from PHU LOC area and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. M-3's mission of providing security for surveyors was aborted by a weather hold on helicopters. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0055H, 3d Tank Unit at Gravel Pit vic (YD 839146) received 3 rounds SAF from vic (YD 839147). Unit returned SAF and saw VC fall, but subsequent search of area revealed no evidence of VC casualties.

At 0600H, K-3 in ambush vic (YD 923144) fired 20 rds SAF and 1 M-26 grenade at 2 persons moving at an unauthorized time. Apprehended 1 wounded VCS and delivered him to CAC-A3 for interrogation. Determined to be innocent civilian who had violated curfew.

At 0800H, L-3 vic (ZD 155971) sighted groups totalling 20 VC and 50 civilians moving S into mountains and carrying heavy loads vic (YD 150974) groups disappeared into mountains and 10 minutes later civilians reappeared enroute to village vic (ZC 152982). After civilians were out of area, VC taken under fire with 60mm and 81mm mortars as they moved into mountains. Good coverage of target area. L-3 apprehended 17 Detainees who were delivered to CAC-H3. Mortar mission resulted in 5 VC KIA.

At 1810H, CAC-A6 patrol sighted 3 VC vic (YD 823170). Patrol split into two groups to attack VC from 2 directions, killing 1 and capturing 1 pistol, 2 satchel charges, and a camera. Other 2 VC fled NE. 1 VC KIA, 1 wpn captured.

25 March 1967

K-2 relieved K-1 as Sparrow Hawk and K-1 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. K-3 provided security for Rough Rider to DONG HA. L-2 relieved M-1 of combat outpost on Hill 180 and M-2 of patrolling mission for CAC-A1 and A2. I-1 relieved M-1 of combat outpost on Hill 230. M-1 and M-2 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. M-3 provided security for surveyor teams, and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve on return. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 1430H, 3 civilian vehicles were ambushed by approximately 30 VC vic (YD 987052). Ambush initiated with explosive, probably a grenade, and SAF. 1 ARVN was killed, and 4 ARVN's and 4 civilians were wounded.

At 1845H, an undetermined number of VC stopped a civilian vehicle vic (YD 982051) and stole an unknown amount of rice.

At 1930H, CAC-H3 vic (YD 940654) recovered the body of a 52 year old Vietnamese woman whom the VC had kidnapped and shot in the head 3 times for providing information to PF's at CAC-H3.

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26 March 1967

I-1 relieved L-2 of patrolling mission for CAC-A1 and CAC-A2 and continued combat outpost on Hill 230. K-3 provided security for the Rough Rider's return from DONG HA and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve upon arrival in HHU BAI. L-2 was helolifted to vic (AU 835062) to recover bodies of American educators killed in crash of civilian aircraft, but was unable to find wreckage and returned to perimeter, assuming Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve on return. L-2 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve upon relief from Hill 180, CAC-A1 and A2. M-3 provided security for survey teams vic (ZD 088028), (ZD 129091), and (AU 824081) and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve upon return. Squad from 106 plt was relieved from patrolling mission at Gravel Pit and relieved L-2 of combat outpost on Hill 180. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 1110H, CAC-H reported that at 0800H 20-30 VC armed with carbines, automatic rifles, and M-79 kidnapped 1 Vietnamese male and distributed propaganda leaflets vic (ZC 089998). VC left in unknown direction.

At 1845H, CAC-H3 reported that 1 60mm mortar round of undetermined origin exploded in LOC DIEN area vic (YD 967064), wounding four ARVNs.

At 1630H, CAC-H6 sent a patrol to investigate a report by a villager that a pistol was hidden in a bush vic (ZD 130009). Recovered 1 .45 cal pistol with magazine and 7 rounds.

27 March 1967

K-3 relieved K-2 as Sparrow Hawk and K-2 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. L-1 was helolifted to vic (AU 839058), recovered bodies of victims, of civilian aircraft crash, returned to Vital Area, and assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve upon return. Co M moved into TRUOI area as operating company for that area. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0750H, a civilian vehicle detonated a mine on a bridge vic (ZD 016027) killing two civilians, wounding 8, destroying the vehicle, and leaving a five foot hole in the bridge. A contract truck following the taxi received 3 rds SAF in the cab and grill. The bridge remained passable.

At 1350H, a civilian truck carrying 85 100 lbs bags of rice detonated a mine vic (ZD 009032), slightly injuring 1 civilian. CAC-H4 searched area and provided security for the truck.

At 1540H, CAC-A6 reported finding a camera on dead VC vic (YD 823170). A6 developed film, which consisted of pictures of seven persons. A5 identified 3 of the 7, apprehended them, delivered them to CIT, who delivered them to ITT.

At 1500H, a civilian bus detonated an explosive device vic (ZD 019028), killing two civilians and wounding two. Road remained passable.

At 2000H, 20 VC vic (YD 978067) armed with SA, 1 M-79, 1 .50 cal MG, and 1 56 light MG kidnapped 5 civilians for propaganda school. VC departed SE.

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K-2 provided one squad as security for survey team at (YD 988099). L-2 provided two squads for security of artillery liaison team and ammunition resupply to CAC-H Headquarters. L-3 provided security for surveyors vic (AU 828078). All other units continued with assigned missions.

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At 0240H, M-2 while moving into ambush position and 2 armed VC approaching their position from W. [redacted] ambush, killing 1. Other VC fled S under heavy fire. 1 VC KIA, 1 VC KIAP, 1 wpm captured (M-1 rifle).

At 0518H, M-3 ambush vic (YD 995005) made contact with 10 to 12 VC who approached from their rear and threw 10 grenades and fired 150 rds SAF. Ambush fired 3 claymores, 2 LAAW's, 40 rds 81mm illum, 50 81mm HE, 200 rds 7.62 ball, 8 rds 7.62 linked, and threw 15 M-26 grenades. VC fled N. Results: USMC 2 KIA, 1 WIA, 1 DOW; Enemy: 4 KIA, 2 KIAP, 2 wpms captured (9mm submachinegun and a bolt-action rifle).

At 1850H, a CH-53 received SAF from vic (YD 840230). No injuries, no fire returned.

At 1945H, I-2 vic (YD 959048) received sniper fire from an estimated 4-5 VC with AW on their right flank vic (YD 959048) while moving to night ambush position. The point man was killed. K-2 returned fire and enemy fled SE. Search of area the following morning revealed spent cartridge cases and bloodstains on trail S of enemy position.

29 March 1967

K-1 relieved K-3 as Sparrow Hawk and K-3 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0809H, M-3 vic (ZD 001014) spotted 1 VC armed with a carbine walking S from vic (ZD 002015). M-3 fired 10 rds 7.62 when VC came to a range of 25 meters of their position, and saw VC fall. Search of area revealed no evidence of enemy casualty. Apparently VC fled SE.

At 0920H, a CAC-H unit moving by vehicle of Hwy #1 was ambushed by an unknown number of VC with AW's vic (ZD 120095). Unit returned SAF and ran through ambush. Subsequent search of area revealed that ambush initiated with electrically detonated 60mm mortar round, and a dud claymore which didn't go off when blasting cap did. 2 USMC WIA.

At 1430H, Sector D (3/12) vic (YD 897143) received 1 rd SAF from their S. Unable to determine enemy location. No fire returned.

At 1600H, Co M vic (ZD 003014) received carbine fire from 1 VC vic (YD 002004). Returned 20 rds SAF. Sniper ceased firing.

At 2340H, RD's vic (YD 903123) from CAC-A3 sighted 3-4 VC moving NE towards their ambush site. Ambush opened fire when VC were approx 75 meters away vic (YD 903123). VC returned SAF and fled SW. Enemy fire destroyed a RD M-2 carbine. Search of area the following morning revealed no evidence of enemy casualties.

30 March 1967

K-2 provided one squad security for mine sweep between CAC-H8 and CAC-H5. K-3 provided security for Rough Rider to DANANG. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 1000H, the village police chief of THUY PHUONG delivered one of the 7 men pictured in the film taken from dead VC vic (YD 823170) (entry for 271540H), to CAC-A6. Man is listed as VCS because several members of his family are VC in this area, and his last name, age, and village are on the blacklist. CAC-A6 delivered Detainee to CIT for interrogation.

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At 1235H, M-3 vic (ZD 003013) sighted 3 VC, one of which carried a carbine, approaching their position from S vic (ZC 033997). M-3 fired 2 rds M-79 and 10 rds 7.62 when VC were 25 meters away. Negative enemy casualties. VC fled N.

At 1420H, the Sparrow Hawk (K-1) was committed for security of downed helicopter (a C&C flight with Lima Company Commander aboard) vic (ZD 174038), and K-2 immediately formed a new Sparrow Hawk. The Sparrow Hawk was airborne at 1435H, and had landed and established security around the downed craft at 1455H. At 1815H the aircraft was lifted out and at 1830H the Sparrow Hawk was pulled out, arriving back in the AO at 1847H. No contact with enemy personnel was made at any time.

At 1905H, an unknown number of VC vic (YD 822198) fired at a C-130 aircraft vic (YD 820181) with .50 cal MG.

At 1935H, CAC-H6 patrol sighted 5 VC walking toward their position. VC sighted patrol and began running. Patrol opened fire and swept area. Negative enemy casualties.

At 02100H, PF's from bridge platoon who were supposed to be guarding bridge vic (ZD 078008) were sleeping in a house instead of guarding the bridge. An unknown number of VC fired 3 M-79 rounds into the house, setting the house on fire. The house was destroyed, 1 PF was killed, 6 wounded, 6 missing in action, and 1 BAR was captured from the PF's. PHU LOC District Headquarters dispatched reaction force to area, but VC had already fled.

31 March 1967

Co L assumed mission of operating company in TRUOI area, relieving I-2 and Co M. I-2 assumed Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. Co M (with Force Recon Team, and 9 man Chieu Hoi Team attached) assumed mission of operating company in PHU LOC area after being relieved in TRUOI area. K-2 provided one squad as security for mine sweep between CAC-H8 and CAC-H5 prior to return of Rough Rider from DANANG. K-3 provided security for Rough Riders's return from DANANG. All other units continued with assigned missions.

At 0130H, I-2 ambush vic (YD 952027) heard an unidentified sound in front of their position. I-2 threw 1 frag and 1 illum grenade with negative surveillance, but received 2 WIA from shrapnel of their own grenade. Search of area the following morning revealed one dud ChiCom grenade and no evidence of enemy casualties. 2 USMC WIA.

At 0913H, Mine sweep for which K-2 was providing security located an old U.S. mine with 155mm howitzer shell attached to the bottom vic (YD 994043). Mine was 2 feet N of center of road. Blown in place.

At 1015H, HQ Bn (Sector B) detained 2 Vietnamese males approx 15-17 years old. The Vietnamese were walking up and down the wire, apparently observing. One was carrying obscene pictures, the other nothing. Detainees delivered to Vital Area PMO.

At 1930H, M-3 point vic (ZC 144988) was ambushed by 6 VC in two groups 30 meters off the trail on other side. VC fired 25 rds SAF, killing 1 man. 11 other Marines received minor injuries from barbed wire. M-3 returned 250 rds 7.62, 2 shotgun rounds, 2 M-79 rds, and 40 rds 81mm illum, killing 2 VC. Results: USMC 1KIA, 11 WIA; Enemy: 2 KIA, 2 wpns captured (1 AK-47 and 1 MOS-36).

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At 2200H, CAC-A1 patrol vic apprehended detainees vic (YD 870175). Patrol returned Detainees to CAC-A1 for delivery to CIT.CP and then continued on mission. Patrol found a stick in the trail vic (YD 877177) that had not been there when patrol passed same point 15 minutes previously. Presumably placed by Detainees.

At 2330H, CAC-A Company Commander was notified by District Chief that 4 Vietnamese males aged 8-46 were sleeping in a hut vic (YD 838177) when a satchel charge from an unknown source exploded, wounding all 4. All 4 were medevaced to A-Med.

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PART III

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[REDACTED] LISTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED AND SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED

At the beginning of March, 3d Battalion, 26th Marines was engaged in Operation CHINOOK II in PHONG DIEN District, THUA THIEN Province. In this operation, which had begun 17 February 1967 with the Battalion under the Operational Control of the Fourth Marines, the mission of the Battalion was to:

1. Conduct operations in the assigned area to search out and destroy enemy forces operating in the area, deny the enemy access to populated lowland areas, and to secure lines of communication within the operating area.
2. Maintain perimeter defense for Regimental CP, LSA, and supporting artillery vic (YD 531315).

3. Provide security for daily road sweep between perimeter and Hwy #1.

Until 6 March 1967, the Battalion operated with one company providing perimeter security, another as a reaction force, and the remaining two companies operating in designated areas within the AO.

During this period, the companies maintained ambushes both day and night at key locations throughout the AO. Observation posts were established during the day. These positions were frequently manned by sniper teams and used for adjusting fire on enemy personnel observed in the AO. At night, listening posts were established, and AN/TPS-21's, sniperscopes, and seismic intrusion devices were employed to detect enemy movement.

On 6 March 1967, the Battalion Advance Party moved to the PHU BAI Vital Defense Area, beginning a movement of the entire Battalion by echelon to that area. From 7-10 March 1967, one rifle company displaced to PHU BAI each day; India on 7 March, Kilo on 8 March, Mike on 9 March, and Lima on 10 March. H&S Company was phased in over the four-day period. While 3/26 displaced to PHU BAI, 2/9 (-) moved from PHU BAI to the CHINOOK II AO.

Until 9 March 1967, 3d Battalion, 26th Marines retained responsibility for the CHINOOK II AO. At 1345H, 2/9 assumed responsibility for the CHINOOK II AO, and at 1600H, 3d Battalion, 26th Marines assumed responsibility for the PHU BAI Vital Area TAOR. At that time an informal Change of Command Ceremony took place in PHU BAI, and the Battalion chopped operational control from the Fourth Marines to the Third Marine Division.

Upon assuming responsibility for the PHU BAI Vital Area TAOR, the Battalion assumed the following mission: to defend the PHU BAI Vital Area and provide security for the TAOR; ensure that adequate surveillance and security are maintained on the perimeter; maintain reserve/counter-attack force during hours of darkness; maintain combat outposts on Hill 180 and Hill 230; provide personnel for 81mm mortar section at COLCO BEACH; maintain reinforced platoon (Sparrow Hawk/Reaction Force) on five-minute alert; maintain one company (Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve) on two-hour alert; maintain patrol bases and conduct extensive patrolling in the GIA LE and TRUOL areas; assume Operational Control of combined action companies A and H; conduct extensive patrols in

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assigned to provide security for Rough Riders to DONG HA and DANANG; provide Officer/Staff NCO and Forward Observer for Road Runner to CHINOOK II AO.

The remainder of the month was spent in fulfilling this mission. In addition, the Battalion conducted training, surveyed equipment that had become unserviceable, and took other measures to restore the Battalion to the level of combat readiness it had prior to Operation CHINOOK.

Because of numerous routine commitments that had to be met, the flexibility of the Battalion for conducting tactical operations was greatly reduced. Throughout the period, one company was always committed to the Sparrow Hawk and Sparrow Hawk/Rough Rider Reserve. Other forces were required for combat outposts on Hills 180 and 230, for a section of the Vital area perimeter, and for patrolling in CAC-A1 and A2. In addition, frequent Rough Rider and Surveyor team security commitments further depleted the Battalion's manpower.

The only mission assigned to the Battalion which enabled it to conduct normal search and destroy operations was that of maintaining platoon patrol bases in the GIA LE and TRUOI areas. Platoons were maintained in these areas at all times during the period. Moreover, whenever commitments permitted, the Battalion committed additional troops to these areas.

Initially, the Battalion inserted units into these areas only for short periods. From 13-16 March, Co M conducted ambushes in the GIA LE area at night, and returned to the Vital Area Perimeter during the day. On 17 March, Co M conducted night ambushes in the TRUOI area.

After the Battalion had been operating in the area for a few weeks and had discovered areas containing frequently used enemy routes of movement, it began to insert units into these areas for extended periods of time. Particular attention was paid to the TRUOI and PHU LOC areas. From 19 to 24 March Co L operated in the PHU LOC area. Co M operated in the TRUOI area from 27 to 31 March, when it was relieved by Co L, and moved to the PHU LOC area to resume operations in that area.

Although the PHU LOC area is not included in the TAOR, the Battalion was able to obtain permission to operate in this area whenever it so requested. For all practical purposes, the PHU LOC area can be regarded as another area of patrolling, similar to the TRUOI and GIA LE areas. The opportunity for operating in the PHU LOC area greatly increased the Battalion's prospects of engaging and destroying the enemy.

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B. RESUME OF ACTIVITY WHILE IN HHU BAI (8 MARCH - 31 MARCH 1967)

1. Continuous Commitments. The following table indicates the units that met the routine commitments assigned to the Battalion during the period the Battalion had responsibility for the HHU BAI TAOR.

Date	Hill 180	Hill 230	CAC A1&A2	Truoi	Gia Le	Sparrow Hawk
8	1-2	1-2	I-1	---	---	---
9	"	"	"	K-3	K-1	K-2
10	"	"	"	"	"	"
11	"	"	"	"	"	M-3
12	"	"	"	"	"	"
13	"	"	"	"	"	M-1
14	"	"	"	"	K-2	L-1
15	"	"	"	"	"	"
16	"	"	"	"	"	L-3
17	"	"	"	"	"	"
18	M-1	M-1	M-3	K-1	"	"
19	"	"	"	"	"	I-1
20	"	"	"	"	"	"
21	"	"	"	"	"	I-3
22	"	"	"	"	"	I-2
23	"	"	M-2	"	"	"
24	"	"	"	I-2	I-3	K-1
25	L-2	I-1	L-2	"	"	K-2
26	106 Flt	"	I-1	"	"	"
27	"	"	"	"	"	K-3
28	"	"	"	"	"	"
29	"	"	"	"	"	K-1
30	"	"	"	"	"	"
31	"	"	"	Co L(-)	"	"

2. Sparrow Hawk Commitments. The Sparrow Hawk was committed twice during March. Both instances involved downed aircraft.

a. At 191420H, the Sparrow Hawk (I-1) was alerted for helolift at 1500H to vic (YD 465405) to provide security for a downed aircraft. Sparrow Hawk departed HHU BAI at 1500H, the aircraft was repaired at 1725H and flown out. The Sparrow Hawk returned at 1750H. No enemy contact was made at any time.

b. At 301420H, the Sparrow Hawk (K-1) was committed for security of downed helicopter vic (ZD 174038). Sparrow Hawk departed at 1435H, then the aircraft was lifted out at 1815H. The Sparrow Hawk returned at 1847H, no enemy contact was made at any time.

3. Rough Riders. At specified times during the month the Battalion was assigned the mission of providing security for Rough Riders. Dates, destinations, and unit providing the security force for all such convoys are listed in the following table:

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<u>Date of Departure</u>	<u>Date of Return</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Unit Providing Security</u>
13 March	14 March	DONG HA	L(-) (Rein)
15 March	16 March	DANANG	M-2 (Rein)
20 March	21 March	DANANG	I-2 (Rein)
22 March	24 March	DANANG	I-1 (Rein)
25 March	26 March	DONG HA	K-3 (Rein)
30 March	31 March	DANANG	K-3 (Rein)

4. Miscellaneous Assignments. In addition to the commitments listed in the previous paragraphs, the Battalion was frequently assigned various security missions for survey teams and mine sweeps and other details requiring immediate action by Marine infantry units in the PHU BAI area. All such assignments are listed below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Unit Providing Security</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Location</u>
8-10 March	I-3 (Rein)	Security	Colo Beach ..
11 March	M-2	Convoy	CAC-A1 & A2
		Security	
13 March	M-2 Squad (Rein)	Army Survey Team	PHU GIA & PHU LOC
13 March	M-3 (-)	Navy Survey Team	PHU GIA & PHU LOC
21 March	M-2	Survey Team	
25-26 March	M-3	Survey Team	ZD 088028, ZD 129091, AU 824081
26-27 March	L-1	Recovery of Bodies from Civilian Air Wreck	AU 835062
28 March	K-2 Squad	Survey Team	YD 988039
28 March	L-2 (-)	Artillery CAC-H Liaison & Ammo Resupply	
28-31 March	L-3 (Rein)	Surveyors	AU 828078
30 March	K-2 Squad	Mine Sweep	H8-H5 (Hwy #1)
31 March	K-2 Squad	Mine Sweep	H5-H8 (Hwy #1)

5. Operations Conducted. Whenever adequate forces were available, the Battalion conducted platoon or company-sized operations in various areas throughout the TAOR and in the adjacent PHU LOC area. All such operations are listed below:

11 March: M-1 conducted search and destroy operation in CAC-A1 and A2 area
 13 March: Co M (Rein) conducted night ambushes in the GIA LE area.

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- 14 March: Co M conducted night ambushes in GIA LE area.
 15 March: Co M(-) conducted night ambushes in the GIA LE area.
 16 March: Co M(-) conducted night ambushes in the GIA LE area.
 17 March: Co M (Rein) conducted night ambushes in the TRUOI area.
 19-24 March: Co L (Rein) conducted search and destroy operations in the PHU LOC area.
 23-24 March: K-1 and K-3 established ambush/blocking positions in support of an ARVN operation vic (YD 955087) and (YD 923144), respectively.
 27-31 March: Co M conducted search and destroy operations in the TRUOI area.
 31 March: Co L(-) conducted search and destroy operations in the TRUOI area.
 31 March: Co M (Rein) conducted search and destroy operations in the PHU LOC area.

6. Small-Unit Operations. In addition to the company-sized operations listed in the preceding paragraph, over one thousand small-unit operations were conducted throughout the TAOR and adjoining areas during March. The vast majority of these patrols were conducted by units from Combined Action Companies A and H. Although these operations were rarely larger than squad-size, and the patrol routes were usually short, these operations were very valuable in providing security for the villagers living with each CAC unit. In addition, they disrupted enemy movement to village areas and were a good source of information on enemy movements. Although it is not possible to give individual attention to each patrol, the following table gives the daily and monthly total for the various small unit operations that were conducted during the month.

Date	LP's	OP's	Night Ambushes	Night Security Patrol	Daytime Security Patrol
9	5	4	21	21	---
10	4	4	19	19	---
11	6	4	22	18	13
12	6	4	17	15	8
13	6	4	21	19	13
14	6	4	20	18	13
15	6	4	18	18	13
16	6	4	20	18	13
17	6	4	20	20	15
18	6	4	15	19	12
19	6	4	15	17	14
20	6	4	16	18	15
21	5	4	20	17	13
22	6	4	9	10	15
23	6	4	21	18	14
24	6	4	18	17	13
25	6	4	24	17	15
26	6	4	21	19	12
27	6	4	25	25	14

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28	6	4	28	19	10
29	6	4	27	17	15
30	6	4	30	19	14
31	6	4	26	19	16
TOTAL 134 92			476	417	280

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C. CASUALTIES

1. Friendly Casualties (1-31Mar67)

Killed	5
Died of wounds	1
Wounded	<u>36</u>
TOTAL	42

2. Enemy Casualties (1-31Mar67)

KIA (C)	38
KIA (P)	50
VC Captured	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	89

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D. COMMAND RELATIONS

1. With Higher Units: From 1-9 March, 3/26 was under the Operational Control of the 4th Marines. At 091600H March 1967, the Battalion chopped Operational Control to the 3d Marine Division and assumed responsibility for the PHU BAI TAOR. No problems were encountered in command relations.

2. With Other Marine Units:

a. From 7-9 March, 3/26 assumed Operational Control of various 2/9 units that moved into the CHINOOK II AO. During the same period three companies of 3/26 chopped Operational Control to 2/9 upon displacement to PHU BAI. The entire transfer proceeded smoothly and on 9 March, when responsibility for the CHINOOK II and PHU BAI TAOR was formally exchanged, all units were returned to the Operational Control of their parent unit.

b. While the Battalion was responsible for the defense of the PHU BAI Vital Area, it had Operational Control of all units assigned sectors of the Vital Area perimeter for all matters concerning perimeter defense. Each unit provided a sector commander who was responsible to the Battalion's Perimeter Defense Officer, who coordinated all matters pertaining to the perimeter. No problems were encountered in this area, and relations with units on the perimeter were very good.

3. With ARVN/FF/RF Units

a. Direct liaison was maintained with HUONG THUY and PHU LOC Districts through frequent visits to both District Headquarters by the Commanding Officer and the Operations Officer.

b. Indirect liaison with Vietnamese units was accomplished through the 3d MarDiv, which supplied the Battalion with a continuous flow of information regarding ARVN operations in the area and intelligence information that was reported by ARVN units.

c. Liaison was also maintained through Combined Action Companies A and H, both of which were under the Operational Control of the Battalion. The two companies maintained CAC units in the villages along Hwy #1 that were in or near the PHU BAI TAOR. The former operated in the northern and central section of the TAOR (HUONG THUY District); the latter in the extreme southern section and along the stretch of Hwy #1 east of the TAOR (PHU LOC District). Much of the information the Battalion received from HUONG THUY and PHU LOC Districts was relayed through CAC A and CAC H, respectively.

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E. COMMUNICATIONS ELECTRONICS

1. Chinook Area. No changes from the February Command Chronology were encountered prior to leaving for the Phu Bai area. All of the following refer to the Phu Bai area.
2. Message Center. Message traffic is received from and delivered to the Division Message Center. Distribution has not changed.
3. Radio. All of the battalion nets terminate in the COC bunker. Contact has been possible with all outlying units due to a relay station being maintained on Hill 180.
4. Wire. The facilities of the previous Vital Area Defense Battalion were utilized by our wire section when we moved into this area. In addition to the regular switchboard, the COC has a switchboard for direct contact to all Perimeter Security units. The FSCC in the COC bunker has another switchboard for their direct contact with certain artillery units.
5. General. No unusual difficulties have been encountered during the month. Communications have been adequate in all respects.

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F. FIRE SUPPORT

The 3/26 F.S.C.C. assumed control of the fire support for the Phu Bai Critical area at 1600 9 March 1967. The next few days were spent establishing efficient communications and personal liaison with all units in the Vital Area. Normal coordinating and clearing of missions was the primary duty of the F.S.C.C. during March.

Liaison teams were sent to Phu Loc and Phu Gia to provide artillery support for Rough Rider Convoys. There were no major problems pertaining to the liaison teams working with A.R.V.N. artillery units. The normal liaison team consisted of one NCO and two radio operators with two AN/PRC 25's and one RC 292. The liaison team was also sent to Phu Loc and Phu Gia to support offensive operations by elements of the battalion operating beyond the range of 4/12, and to support ground survey teams and hydrographic survey teams.

A normal H&I program with HE. and illumination was conducted during March. Numerous intelligence targets were also attacked by the artillery units within effective range.

A counter mortar/counter rocket plan was drafted and put into effect on 25 March 1967. This counter-fire plan utilized all artillery firing units, the 81 mm mortars of 3/26, and the four 81 mm mortars at the 8th RRFS. To insure efficient control of 8th RRFS's fires hot line communications were established between 3/26 F.S.C.C. and the 8th RRFS Command Center. To insure immediate response to an enemy mortar or rocket attack, a system of flash OP's was established at key locations on the Vital area perimeter, on Hill 180, and on Hill 230. These observation posts were manned by personnel having the ability to locate hostile weapons by flash or sound, and equipped with compasses, field glasses, and communications to the 3/26 COC. All OP's were plotted on the F.S.C.C. map to facilitate a graphic intersection to hostile weapons. The Phu Bai air strip tower was also utilized as a flash O.P. and hot line wire communications were established with 3/26 F.S.C.C.

Reconnaissance units operating throughout the Phu Bai area frequently called in artillery missions during this period. F.S.C.C. coordinated these missions to insure the safety of friendly units operating around the T.A.O.R.

No unusual problems or situations presented themselves, and routine operations prevailed in the F.S.C.C. throughout the month.

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G. AIR SUPPORT

I. Air Defense. No enemy aerial activity of any type was encountered.

II. Air Support.

a. Medevacs. A total of 12 medevac missions were flown during March. Five KIA's and 14 WIA's were evacuated. Medevacs were usually completed within 30 minutes. Medevacs were flown in all types of weather and were generally very good.

b. Fixed Wing Support. From 1 to 4 March, 7 fixed wing sorties were flown in support of the Battalion with the following results.

(1) Enemy Personnel: 7 confirmed KBA, 5 probable KBA.

(2) Fortifications: numerous bunkers and trench systems were destroyed. Average BDA was 70% on target and 90% effective.

(3) Other: 3 VC boats and 1 building were destroyed.

c. Logistical Support: Where resupply or transportation of troops could not be accomplished effectively by vehicle, helicopters were employed. A total of 16 resupply missions and 12 troop movements were made during March by helicopter.

d. Command and Control: 20 missions were flown during March, enabling unit commanders down to platoon level to evaluate the terrain they were assigned to operate in.

e. Aerial Observers: Aerial Observers were employed to adjust artillery fire and airstrikes, and to maintain surveillance over the AO. Ten missions were flown during March.

f. Rough Rider Escort. Three missions were flown to provide security for Rough Riders. In each case, an AO was employed to maintain surveillance of Hwy #1 and UH-1E's and fixed wing were used for air support. No contact was made during any of the Rough Riders.

III. Summary. Air support was adequate although limited by aircraft availability and weather criteria.

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a. During the period the Battalion was engaged on Operation CHINOOK II, it had two sections of G battery, 65th Artillery, and three sections of D Battery, 44th Artillery in direct support.

b. The primary mission of both units was to augment perimeter fire-power. In addition, both units fired H&I fires during the hours of darkness. The M-42's were used to assist in troop movements and resupply runs about the AO.

2. 9-31 March

a. During the period the Battalion was responsible for the HHU BAI Vital Area Perimeter, D Battery, 1st Bn, 44th Artillery continued in direct support of 3/26 with 10 M-42's and 4 M-55's.

b. The primary mission of both units was to augment perimeter fire-power. In addition, two M-42's were assigned to the Vital Area Reaction Force during the hours of darkness. M-55's provided security on all convoys originating from HHU BAI.

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I. ADMINISTRATION

1. No major administrative problems were encountered during the period covered by this report.

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UNCLASSIFIED**J. PERSONNEL**

1. During the period covered by this report, the Battalion joined 195 enlisted personnel and 11 officers. 10 officers and 17 enlisted were reassigned to other units. 1 officer and 15 enlisted were transferred by service records due to being evacuated out of Vietnam as a result of injuries received.

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K. INTELLIGENCE

1. Enemy Situation 1-9 March

A. From 1-9 March, 1967, the Battalion continued on Operation CHINOOK II. There were no significant changes in the composition or disposition of enemy forces in the CHINOOK II AO during this period. Intelligence data for this period is therefore the same as that reported in the Command Chronology for the period 1-28 February.

(1) Statistics for period 1-9 Mar 67 (Operation CHINOOK II).

KIA(C)	23
KIA(P)	17
Detainees	2
Ind wpns capt	5
Grenades capt	3
Booby traps	2
Punji Pits	1
Trench	3
Incoming Mortars	1

B. The remainder of this section deals exclusively with the period when 3/26 was operating in the PHU BAI TAOR (9-31 March 1967).

2. Weather and terrain

A. Weather: During March the weather improved as the monsoon season ended. Weather conditions varied as indicated below.

Maximum Temperature	95°
Minimum Temperature	58°
Mean Temperature	74°
Number of days w/rain	9
Total rainfall received	2.31 in.
Average winds	Light and variable
Visibility	6 miles

B. Terrain:

(1) The area north and east of Highway # 1 within the TAOR is flat, rice paddy area with heavy shrub growth around built up areas. Travel is extremely channelized on trails and dikes. The area south of Highway # 1 is characterized by rolling hills with low scrub growth cut by small streams. The area is dominated by hill masses in GS (YD 8413) and (YD 8408). At the southern edge of the TAOR the terrain abruptly changes to heavy jungle canopy and high mountains.

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(2) Main avenues of approach used by the VC:

(a) In the northern portion of the TAOR the enemy travels in and out of the Royal Tombs area using all available rivers and paths guiding on Route 546 to GIA LE, then crossing rice paddies to LOI NONG vic (YD 840196). From this point the VC can move freely into PHU THU District.

(b) The SONG THIEU HOA River in PHU THU District is often used. The avenue follows the river south to the intersection of the SONG CON PUAN River vic (YD 961111). At this intersection the VC travel south along the coast to Vic (YD 9809), then travel in and along the TRUOI River to the hill complex vic (YC 9598), (YC 9698), (YC 9798).

(c) VC have also been sighted moving from the intersection of SON CON PUAN and SONG THIEU HOA Rivers and on through the area between CAC H-2 and H-3 on their way to the hill and mountain area west of Highway # 1.

(d) From BEN TAU guiding on route 545 and from vicinity UPPER TRUOI River, crossing Highway # 1 in GS (YD 9407, (YD 9507), across SONG LONG QUAN River to PHU THU (D).

(e) From vic GS (ZC 1595) north through THUY CAHN vic (ZC 1598) crossing Highway # 1 vic (ZD 120015) to boats on PAM CAU HAI.

3. ENEMY SITUATION: Through documents, RVN and CITA gent reports and contacts, units known to be operating near the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines TAOR were more precisely located, and a closer understanding of the enemy situation was gained.

A. Significant Enemy Activity: An unusual amount of sightings of battalion and company size units have been reported in PHU THU and PHU LOC Districts. A total of 2 confirmed company size units were reported in PHU THU District. PHU LOC District has had a total of 1 confirmed company and 1 confirmed battalion size unit sightings. The 804th Battalion has been active in and around the TAOR. The headquarters of the 804th Battalion and 2 companies have reportedly been sighted vic (YD 9201). It's exact location is not known. It is believed that two (2) companies from the 804th are and have been working with elements of the C113 and the C117 Local Force Companies. It is probable that elements of the 804th were responsible for the attack on PHU THU District Headquarters on 10 March. All indications are that the VC in PHU LOC are operating out of the hill complex vic (YD 9201) to (YD 9301), BACH MA MT. Region and hills Vic (ZC 1395), 1495) and (1595). Reports of terrorism and mining incidents demonstrate that the enemy is free to move just outside of the PHU BAI TAOR using cover of darkness and his ability to lose himself within the local populace at any given time.

~~Boxed Order of Battle~~

PHU THU District contains one (1) confirmed Local Force Company
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plus elements of the 804th. The C113 Local Force Company is based out of VINH PHU Village vic (YD 9615). Warning systems are used and at least one squad is detailed to provide a delaying action if the village is approached by friendly forces.

(2) In PHU LOC District contacts have confirmed the Headquarters of the 804th MAIN FORCE BATTALION with 1 company providing security and the C118 LOCAL FORCE COMPANY. The Headquarters of the 804th was last reported to be located vic (YD 9201). It is believed that 2 of its companies are working with the C113 LOCAL FORCE COMPANY and the C117 LOCAL FORCE COMPANY. The C118 LOCAL FORCE COMPANY has been confirmed to be operating in PHU LOC District. Their exact location is not known. The C118 is working in conjunction with the 804th BATTALION.

(3) VINH LOC District contains the C117 LOCAL FORCE COMPANY. This company located vic (YD 9718) operates out of hamlets within a 2000 meter radius. Warning systems used are the same as those which are employed by the C113 LOCAL FORCE COMPANY. This company is capable of mounting a platoon size offensive. Recent reports indicate that elements of the 804th MAIN FORCE BATTALION provide training, logistical support, and indigenous guides for deployment. As with all Local Force Companies they are capable of deploying squad size units to harass Marine Corps units.

(4) In NAM HOA District Division Order of Battle confirms the presence of the C116 LOCAL FORCE COMPANY VIC (YD 7710) and the C119 LOCAL FORCE COMPANY located vic (YD 6911).

(5) Although no organized local force units have been found in HUONG THUY District, local cadres have been active in several hamlets. AP LOI NONG (H) is considered a vital area which the enemy uses for harboring, assembly, and observation just outside the TAOR.

4. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

A. Sightings: During this reporting period the majority of company and battalion size sightings took place in PHU THU, HUONG THUY and PHU LOC Districts. There was a total of seven (7) company size units sighted in the NW corner of HUONG THUY District. Twelve (12) companies and one (1) battalion size unit were sighted in PHU THU District. The headquarters of the 122nd Regiment was reported to be located vic (YD 8723). The majority of unit sightings were in PHU LOC District with a total of 22 Company size, and 14 battalion size units. Ninety per cent of the above sightings were reported by District intelligence, District police, CIT, or ITT, with no rating given by Division.

B. Significant Engagements: On 10 March a CAC A6 patrol reported contact with approximately 100 VC in graveyard vic (YD 827164). Six hours later CAC A6 received approximately 150 rounds small arms fire from all sides. At approximately the same time a unit in the village came under fire.

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On 11 March PHU THU District Headquarters vic (YD 898197) came under mortar attack followed by an assault resulting in 36 friendly KIA. It is suspected that the C117 LOCAL FORCE COMPANY or elements of it with support from the 804th MAIN FORCE BATTALION were responsible for the attack. On 14 March Mike Company engaged a total of 45 VC vic (YD 831154) in two separate groups. On 22 March Lima Company ambushed 3 VC vic (ZC 144975) killing all three. On 23 March Lima Company engaged five VC vic (ZD 145971). VC taken under fire with results of 3 KIA(P) and 2 KIA(C). On 23 March CAC H8 observed 10 VC vic (YD 995047). CAC patrol took under fire, resulting in 4 VC KIA(P). On 24 March Lima Company observed and later engaged 20 VC vic (ZC 150974). On 28 March Mike Company made contact with an estimated 12 VC resulting in 4 VC KIA(C).

C. Mines and Booby Traps: Enemy efforts to destroy vehicles, road bridges, and railroad bridges resulted in nine mining incidents. These incidents occurred in two separate areas along Highway # 1: seven in area bounded by coordinates (YD 9805) to (ZD 0701) and two in area bounded by (ZD 1801) to (AU 8300). On 17 March leaflets were dropped by the VC, warning drivers of every civilian vehicle driving on Highway # 1 to stay off the road so that the National Liberation Front can cause damage to American and ARVN trucks. It is interesting to note that seven of the nine mining incidents took place after 17 March.

D. Terrorism: Acts of terror have shown an increase this month. On 23 March six (6) civilians were kidnapped from QUI LOC Village vic (YD 9807). On 24 March CAC A6 received information that 4 village elders were assassinated in village (YD 821182). All elders were shot at main intersections in village. CAC H3 received information that on 25 March a woman had been shot for giving information to the Popular Forces. CAC investigated and found 54 Year old woman vic (YD 964054). On 26 March VC kidnapped one (1) Vietnamese male in village vic (ZC 087778). On 27 March 20 VC kidnapped 5 civilians in village vic (YD 978067). Three of the five acts of terrorism took place within a radius of 1000 meters of the TRUOI Bridge located vic (YD 966062).

E. Tactics: A definite pattern of mining and terrorism incidents seems to be taking form. Ninety per cent of these incidents are taking place in PHU LOC District from the TRUOI Bridge area along Highway # 1 south to the vicinity of CAC H7. There are indications that the enemy is moving out of the foothills in area bounded by (YD 9000) to (YD 6000) using the Truoi River as a principal avenue of approach. Another significant avenue of approach used by the enemy is from vic of GS (ZC 1496), (ZC 1596) north through valley to Chu Nuoc Ngot (H).

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5. ENEMY LOSSESA. Enemy Personnel:

VC KIA(C)	15
VC KIA(P)	33
Detainees	42
VCS	10
Civ Def	6
Innoc Civ	25
VCC	1

B. Enemy Fortifications Destroyed:

Tunnels/Trenches	3
Structures Dest/Damaged	5

C. Enemy Equipment/Supplies destroyed or captured:

M-1 Carbines	1
Type 53	4
Type 56	5
Type 50	2
Pistols	2
ChiCom grenades	15
Mines	1
Rice	25 lbs.
TNT	7 lbs.

D. VC Initiated:

Small unit (12 VC or less)	12
Mortar	6
Sniping	11
Assassinations	2
Mining	9
Large unit (13 VC or more)	6
Grenade	6
Propaganda (leaflets, etc.)	7
Bridges Mined	2
Booby traps	1
Kidnapping Incidents	4

E. FR Initiated:

Small unit (12 VC or less)	17
Large unit (13 VC or more)	2

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L. CIVIL AFFAIRS:

1. The Civil Affairs Activities within the PHU BAI TAOR are coordinated by 3d Marine Division G-5. Each unit operating in the vital area is assigned responsibility for a village. 3/26 is responsible for LOC BON.

2. The following is a list of the Civil Affairs Projects and their status in LOC BON Village:

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
A. School Building	Foundation and walls completed prior to 9 Mar 67; the roof was 2/3 completed by 26 Mar with materials on order for interior decoration and completion of the roof due by 10 April.
B. LOC BON Market	Proposed; to be initiated upon completion of school; improvements being considered include cementing entire market place floor and building overhead shelter; materials on order.
C. Head Facilities	Proposed; to be constructed in the four hamlets; materials ordered.
D. Wells	Proposed; to be constructed in the four hamlets, materials ordered.
E. Health & Sanitation Program	Proposed; to be conducted in conjunction with the improvement of the market place and the construction of the head facilities.

3. MEDCAPS are being conducted weekly on Saturdays at 1400 by the Battalion Surgeon at the CAC H-1 dispensary with the assistance of battalion corpsmen and the CAC H-1 corpsman. They have been treating about 60 villagers per MEDCAP.

4. On 27 March 67 a meeting was held with the village chief and hamlet chiefs to review the progress of the school and discuss other projects.

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M. PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

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During the month of March an audio visual team from 3d Marine Division Psy Ops made broadcasts and showed movies throughout the CAC A TAOR. Each CAC A platoon was visited by the team. During each visit a series of cartoons, news reels and the film "Vietnamese Mother's Heart" were shown. Also the village chiefs broadcast propaganda oriented toward the present situation in their villages - an appeal for VC families to invite their loved ones to return; recognition of the security being provided; the need for every villager's participation on helping to extract the VC; the need for information.

To supplement the personal broadcasts, various pre-recorded tapes were played in order to exploit known attitudes and situations in particular areas. Broadcasts were made both day and night.

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N. LOGISTICS

1. General. With the displacement of the Battalion to PHU BAI, an effort was made to restore the equipment and material of the battalion to a level of maximum combat readiness. Missing gear was ordered and damaged equipment was repaired. In addition, all units conducted thorough minor repairs and preventive maintenance on gear that had suffered excessive wear on Operation CHINOOK.

2. General Supplies. Due to excessive wear during Operation CHINOOK, certain items of individual equipment, especially body armor, were in poor condition and in short supply when the Battalion arrived at PHU BAI. This problem is being resolved by the transfer of excess personnel. In general, expendable supplies have been available whenever requested, and there were no major problems in this area.

3. Logistics Support

a. Transportation for the Battalion was provided by the 3d Motor Transport Battalion upon request through the Division Motor Transport Officer. Service was excellent.

b. Due to the tactical commitments of the Battalion, tactical runs with organic vehicles were frequent. Organic vehicles were used for administrative runs as sparingly as possible.

c. Resupply was accomplished by Helicopter, Otter, or vehicle convoy.

d. As of 10 March, all M274A2 (Mules) were administratively deadlined. One M422A1 (Mighty Mite) was evacuated for repair.

4. Ordnance. The Battalion was issued the M16E1 rifle during March. As of 31 March, approximately twenty-five per cent of the Battalion was armed with this weapon.

5. Food. During Operation CHINOOK II, a Mess Hall was established in the Battalion CP area. Two hot meals were served daily until 8 March, when the Food Service Section displaced to PHU BAI. On March 8 - 9, the Battalion ate at the 3d Recon Battalion and the HQ Bn mess halls. On 10 March, 3/26 set up its own mess hall and three meals were served there daily for the remainder of the month. During the period the Battalion was operating under field conditions on Operation CHINOOK II, the food service was outstanding and in general, the quality and quantity of the food was good throughout the month.

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6. Housing. After leaving the CHINOOK II AO, the Battalion moved into Cantonment Area 2 in PHU BAI. All companies billeted their troops and maintained company offices in this area. The buildings were hardbacks and were satisfactory. The S-3 and S-2 sections were the only units that established themselves outside this area. Both units occupied the Vital Area Defense Battalion Combat Operations Center, a reinforced bunker in the 3d Mar Div Headquarters Battalion Area.

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0. MEDICAL-DENTAL

1. Personnel: The Battalion Aid Station has a total of 53 personnel. This consists of 51 Hospital Corpsman and 2 Medical Officers. One of the Medical Officers is currently TAD at NSA Hospital, DANABG.
2. Capabilities: The Battalion Aid Station is capable of treating all minor medical and surgical problems. Patients requiring more extensive care are evacuated to the 3d Medical Battalion at PHU BAI. There are no ward facilities at present, but individual patients have been kept at the BAS for observation.
3. Supply: Medical Supplies are obtained from FLSC-A at PHU BAI. There is no problem obtaining supplies at this time.
4. Training: Hospital Corpsman received on-the-job training under the supervision of the Medical Officers and the Chief Hospital Corpsman. They are also given daily lectures by one of the senior corpsman.
5. Medcaps: A MedCap program has been established at the CAC-H2 unit. Weekly sick call is held there by the Medical Officer.
6. Dental: There are no facilities for dental care at the BAS. Patients requiring such care are evacuated to the 3d Medical Battalion.
7. Malaria Prophylaxis: Chloroquine-Primaquine tablets are taken once a week on Sunday, preferably with a meal. Further preventive measures consist of spraying living areas with mosquito repellent, and screening of all living areas.
8. Sanitation: Daily sanitation inspections were made by one of the Medical Officers or their sanitation representatives.
9. Statistics: The following are the statistics for the period 1 March to 31 March 1967. The figures reflected in this table are based on patients treated at BAS only. It should be noted that casualties evacuated directly to 3d Medical Battalion do not appear in these figures.

a. Monthly Sick Call Report for March 1 - 31

Diagnosis	H&S	I	K	L	M	Others	Total
Immersion Foot	0	0	0	7	3	0	10
Burns	1	1	1	0	4	0	7
Infections	14	5	36	80	30	34	189
Lacerations	15	21	2	6	11	13	68
Colds	2	4	1	4	9	8	28
Dental	13	10	6	17	8	1	55
Evacs	1	3	1	7	3	0	15
MIA	1	3	0	0	7	2	13
MIA	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

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Stomach Disorder	12	12	5	15	33	8	85
Headache	5	1	3	2	4	0	15
Hemorroid	0	0	0	7	1	0	8
Concussion	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Foot Disorder	8	3	6	10	18	3	48
Physical	5	5	1	2	0	0	13
Ear Trouble	6	2	0	0	1	1	10
Eye Trouble & Glasses	1	1	4	2	6	5	19
Rash	7	2	2	2	4	2	19
Others	29	29	40	65	78	47	288

GRAND TOTAL 829

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P. TRAINING

The following training was conducted during March.

1. Orientation. Personnel joined as replacements during the month received an orientation from the Commanding Officer. Upon being assigned to a company, they would receive orientations from their respective Company Commanders.
2. Landmine Warfare School. From 20 to 31 March, 90 of the small unit leaders in the Battalion attended the three-day Landmine Warfare School conducted by the 3d Engineer Battalion at the DONG BA Training Center. These small unit leaders were then used to teach other men of the Battalion the material they had learned while attending the school.
3. Vietnamese Religion and Customs. Between 24 and 31 March, over 300 Marines attended a one-hour lecture by the Battalion Chaplain on the religions and customs of the Vietnamese people.
4. Familiarization Firing of the M16E1, 5.56mm Rifle. During the period the Battalion was at PHU BAI, all personnel who had not previously fired the M16E1 fired 20 rds for familiarization at the PHU BAI Rifle Range. The weapon itself was issued to one company late in the month, and will be issued to the remainder of the Battalion in April. As of 31 March, approximately 100 Marines had fired the M-16 to establish battlesights.
5. Personal Response. On 26 and 27 March, 425 Marines of the Battalion attended a one-hour lecture on the Personal Response Program given by personnel from 3d MarDiv G-5.

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C. CHAPLAIN SUPPORT

1-4 March: Regular weekday services were held daily at the 3/26 Chapel, Thanh Tan Chapel.

5-11 March: On Sundays, the Chaplain held Catholic services at 3/26, "C" Battery, and 3/12 command posts, and provided for Protestant Services for 3/26. With the displacement of the Battalion to Phu Bai, the Chaplain's duties were extended to assist the 3d Marine Division Chaplain. During this week, the Battalion was concerned mainly with displacement, and consequently church services were disrupted.

12-18 March: On Sunday, the Chaplain held services at 3/26 Chapel, 8th RRFS, and the 155 battery. Protestant services were conducted at the 3/26 Chapel. During the remainder of the week, the Chaplain held Catholic mass at 1730 daily in the 3/26 Chapel. On 17 March (Good Friday) a Memorial Service for the dead of the Battalion was conducted at the 3d Marine Division Chapel. Later in the day, the Chaplain held services at HMM-163 and 8th RRFS. On 18 March, Chaplain, Hq Bn Chaplain, and 3/26 Medical personnel made a people-to-people visit to CAC-H 1. Both Chaplains conducted services for the CAC unit and village personnel.

19-25 March: On Sunday, the Chaplain conducted services at the 3/26 Chapel, 8th RRFS, and "C" Battery. Protestant services were also held in the 3/26 Chapel. During the remainder of the week, the Chaplain held Catholic Mass daily in the 3/26 Chapel. On March 20 and 21, the Chaplain was sent to Khe Sanh to conduct masses for personnel stationed there, at Combined Action Company units near Khe Sanh, and at the Special Forces Camp at Long Veil.

On 23 March, the Chaplain conducted masses at CAC-A 1, A6, and A9. On 24 March, masses were held at 8th RRFS, HMM-163, CAC-H 6, and CAC-H 7. The Chaplain visited the Missionary and Orphanage at CAC-H 6 at the same time. On 18 March, mass was held at the civilian church near CAC-A 1.

26-31 March: On Sunday, the Chaplain held services at "C" Battery, 8th RRFS, 3/26 Chapel, and Gia Le Encomptment area. Protestant services were also held at the 3/26 Chapel. Masses were held on Hill 180 and Hill 230 on 27 March, and at Coloc Beach on 28 March. On March 29 and 30, the Chaplain returned to Khe Sanh to conduct masses there and at the nearby CAC units, and to conduct memorial services for B/1/9 and E/2/9.

On 24, 25, 28, and 31 March the Chaplain presented the lecture "Religions in Vietnam" seven times to a total of over 300 Marines.

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PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. The following Division and Regimental Orders and messages governed the activity of the Battalion during March.

CG 3d MarDiv 201135Z Feb 1967 (Redeployment Planning Info)

CG 3d MarDiv 210635Z Feb 1967 (Planning Guidance for March)

Third MarDiv LOI 1-67 (Superseded 3d MarDiv Op O 377-66)

Fourth Mar Frag O 8-67

CG 3d MarDiv 050851Z Mar 1967 (Exchange of 2/9 and 3/26)

Fourth Mar Op O 9-67

CG 3d MarDiv 220743Z Feb 1967 (Defense of HHU BAI Base Vital Area)

3d MarDiv Op O 416-66 (Rough Rider)

3d MarDiv O 03120.8 (SOP for Combined Action Program)

3d MarDiv Op O 2-67 (Sparrow Hawk)

CG 3d MarDiv 061411 Mar 1967 (Fast Freight)

CG 3d MarDiv 231203 Mar 1967 (Golden Fleece Operations)

CG 3d MarDiv 231203 Mar 1967 (Interim Responsibility for GIA LE Encampmen

2. The following documents published by the Battalion and other units are submitted as enclosures to Part IV.

a. CO 2/9 ltr 3/JSP/gpb of 26 Feb 1967 (Outline Plan for Redeployment of 2/9 and 3/26) (NOTAL)

b. CO 3/26 ltr 1/RDS/wow of 5 Mar 1967 (Schedule for Redeployment of 2d Bn, 9th Marines and 3d Bn, 26th Marines (NOTAL)

c. Program for Memorial Services -"Our Dead", 3d Bn, 26th Marines, 17 March 1967 (NOTAL)

d. 3d Battalion, 26th Marines Op O 1-67 (NOTAL)

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